

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An alkaline storage battery having a positive electrode, a negative electrode, a separator, and an alkaline electrolyte, wherein the separator comprises:

a nonwoven fabric made of a plurality of papermaking web layers arranged in laminated form, the papermaking web layers comprising an assembly of fibers, wherein each of the plurality of papermaking web layers contains split type compound fibers by a weight percent, X, where  $30 \text{ wt.}\% \leq X \leq 50 \text{ wt.}\%$ , and the split type compound fibers are obtained by blending and spinning two or more different components, forming into a cloth, and splitting;

the separator satisfies the relation of  $8.8 \leq A \times B \times C \leq 15.2$ , where A is an area density ( $\text{g/m}^2$ ), B is a specific surface area ( $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ ), and C is a thickness (~~mm~~), and (mm);  
and

the separator and inside of the fibers are sulfonated to be hydrophilic by sulfuric anhydride.

2. (Original) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the nonwoven fabric forming the separator is composed of a plurality of papermaking web layers different in at least any one of the area density, the specific surface area, the thickness, and sulfonation degree.

3. (Previously Presented) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the liquid amount of the electrolyte is in a range of 3.0 g or more to 3.5 g or less per 1 Ah of theoretical capacity of the positive electrode.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, wherein the papermaking web layers have at least two types of fibers different in sulfonation degree.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The alkaline storage battery according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein the split type compound fibers are composed of at least two types of fibers selected from among polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, polymethyl pentene, and polybutylene.